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The BROAD AX

HEW TO THE LINE; LET THE CHIPS FALL WHERE THEY MAY

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GOVERNOR FRANK O. LOWDEN

Reviewed the Eighth Regiment at Houston, Texas,
And Loudly led Off in the Cheering as it Passed

THE REVIEWING STAND UNDER THE FAULTLESS COMMAND

Of Col. Franklin A. Denison, the Far Famed Eighth Regiment Band Playing "Illinois", to the Great Delight of More Than One Hundred Thousand People, Who Witnessed That Memorable Parade

True Story or History of the Eighth Regiment by Captain and Chaplain Rev. W. S. Braddan

ARTICLE OR CHAPTER NO. 2

Hardly had we arrived at our Training Camp before we were impressed with the fact that it was up to us to make good by converting the whites of Houston from hate to love, to make a people who regarded the Regiment as a bunch of lawless men, to realize that we would wade through the fires of Hell to gain and hold for our race a large place in the sun; and to dispel all doubts (if any really existed) relative to our Loyalty, Discipline and Patriotism.

The first weeks were hard weeks of discipline and work;—clearing the woods of mammoth trees; filling in low lands; digging ditches; and adjusting ourselves to new conditions incident to going across.

Houston had her first opportunity to view the "8th" and pass critical judgment upon the black boys from Illinois in early November for a divisional parade was requested by the Houstonians and consented to by General Todd, the Senior Officer in Command, General Bell, Commanding General, being in France studying conditions incident to leading his division over there.

The big question was, "Will the 8th" parade with the Division?" There was no just reason why they should or should not as we were only the tail of the kite attached to the Division. It was up to Gen. Todd, one of the squarest generals that ever wore a star, one hundred per cent. American, a soldier, officer, and unprejudiced gentleman who answered the question by saying the "8th" is part of Illinois' contribution to the mobile army designated to go over there, see all the Division or none.

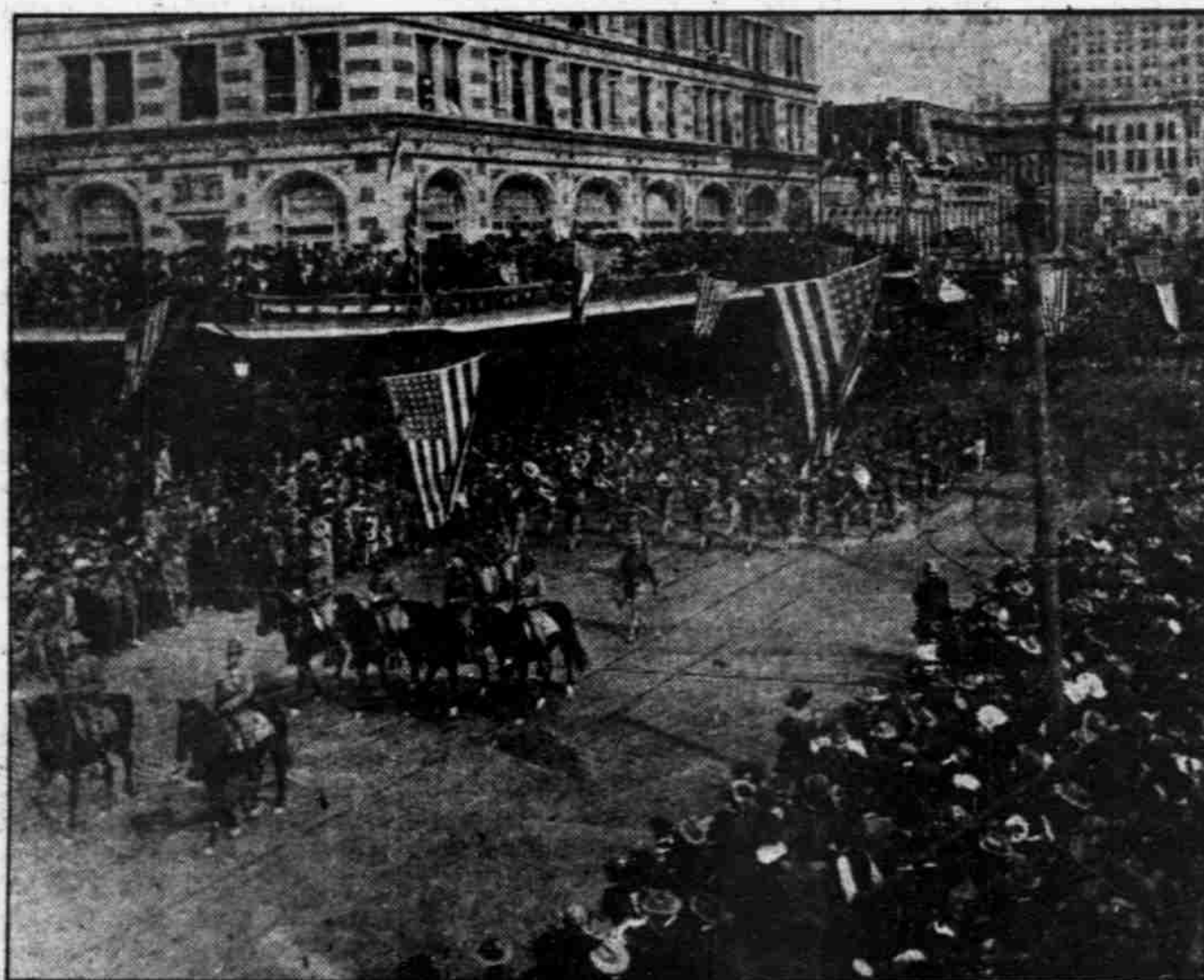
Then began the preparation incident to the parade, for any one who knows Col. Denison will tell you of his zeal to make the best impression with his regiment on

every occasion; this could only be done by practice parades, close order formations and marches.

This was the program for several days prior to the Big Show. Then came the eventful day—the day that we had resolved to win the heart and admiration of the Houstonian. We were formed and took up the line of March in the center of the column. Every man was clean shaven, his hair cut, his equipment faultless, shoes were well polished, and thus as we swung into Main St. in platoon formation the black population that had choked the streets to see their boys gasped with admiration, held their breath with wonder, then opened their mouths with pride and yelled "ATTA BOY", now let these white folks start something."

Down the wide, well-kept street that was jammed with whites and blacks we passed. Not a handclap from the whites, who regarded us with sullen silence, for never before had Houston seen Negro Soldiers marching her streets under arms. Down the streets marched the Crusaders keeping perfect step to the strains of Dixie and as we neared the Reviewing Stand on the balcony of the Rice Hotel the band struck up Illinois. Every man's eyes were looking directly in front, head erect, shoulders thrown back, chest forward and making a full thirty. Fifteen paces this side of the Reviewing Stand the voice of Col. Denison rang out as clear as a clarion note, "Eyes Left" and every eye snapped to the left. The trick was done, the populace went wild they cheered, they applauded, they shouted "Atta Boy". Houston had been won by the military appearance and discipline of Denison's Regiment and everybody was happy.

It may be interesting to relate this incident which transpired at



The above picture represents the Great Parade of the Eighth Regiment as it passed in review in front of the Rice Hotel at Houston, Texas, Governor Lowden and Governor Hobby of Texas, viewing it from the balcony of the hotel; Colonel Franklin A. Denison, mounted on his famous charger, is well in the front. Lieut. Col. James H. Johnson, is just opposite to him; then comes Captain and Chaplain Rev. W. S. Braddan; Capt. J. H. Patton, Capt. James S. Nelson and Major J. R. White. The first figure walking is Sgt. Maj. Hensley; the next is chief trumpeter C. Walker, then comes the band and the regiment.

Camp Logan, the day before the memorable and history-making parade of the Eighth Regiment, through the streets of Houston.

It seems that Governor Frank O. Lowden, and Adj. General F. S. Dickson, had arrived in Houston unannounced at a late hour in the night too late for the morning newspapers to make any mention of their arrival and early the next morning they were driven at full speed in a closed carriage to Camp Logan and on

arriving there, they were secreted behind immense trees, and their presence were unknown to Col. Denison and the other members of the regiment and with field glasses they eagerly watched the marching, counter, marching, drilling, right and left column formations and later on that day, Governor Lowden gave out an interview which appeared in the Houston Post, November 6th 1917 in which he stated; that in all of his military experience

that he had never beheld or witnessed such machine like drilling, marching and formation of Columns; that he was extremely proud and all of the citizens of Illinois were proud of Col. Denison and his eighth Regiment; that his reason for slipping into Camp Logan so early in the morning and easily was; that he was anxious to see, just how well the members of the Eighth Regiment deported themselves, when he was not around; that it would have

been no more than natural for each and every man connected with it, to have put his best foot forward on that occasion if they would have had the slightest idea that he was present.

On the day of the parade Governor Lowden reviewed it, from the balcony of the Rice Hotel, and led off in the cheering, when Col. Denison and his regiment passed the reviewing stand.

The following are some of the remarks, of Governor Lowden on that great and eventful occasion.

LOWDEN REVIEWS TROOPS.
Camp Logan, Houston, Tex. Nov. 7th. — 1917.

Almost 20,000 sons of Illinois marched today before the governor of their home state and the governor of the state in which they are receiving their final training before going after the Germans.

Twenty thousand pairs of eyes turned to the right, and eight bands blew the governor's salute as the men bore down Main St. before their executive. One hundred thousand cheering Houstonians packed the streets during the entire two hour parade.

Gen. H. D. Todd Jr., commander of the division in the absence of Gen. Bell, led the line. Next came his staff and the divisional staff. The crowd broke into one tremendous cheer as the general snapped his right hand to his hat in salute to the governors.

Cheers for Col. Denison
Houston went wild as Colonel Franklin A. Denison, mounted on one of the finest horses in the brigade, rode past the stand. The buildings reverberated to the echoes of "Illinois" played by the now famous Eighth band. Hats went into the air with reckless abandon as a mark of the enthusiasm of the crowds. When the

(Continued on page 4.)